



# *The Charlie Company Chronicle*

**CHARLIE GUARD - "THE ONLY GUARD"**



## **Charlie-6 sends:**

**Greetings to family and friends of Charlie Guard. We're over half-way there! Thank you for the tremendous amount of support that you have given us thus far, and your continued support as we finish out the last 6 months of our tour here in Iraq.**

**The 15<sup>th</sup> of March marked a huge milestone here at Taji as we successfully transitioned the TIFRC to the Government of Iraq. Charlie Guard Soldiers participated in the historic day by providing security at the primary Entry Control Point for ICS personnel along MSR Tampa, as well as providing security at several of the interior ECPs. Charlie Guard Soldiers worked side by side with both the**

**Iraqi Correctional Service Soldiers and Iraqi Army Soldiers to provide a safe and secure environment for all of the media and high level dignitaries who came to see the Transition Ceremony.**

**With the transition of the prison to the Gol, Charlie Company has moved into a new role. We are now completely out of the Detention Operations business and focused solely on security at several different ECPs, as well as patrolling 'outside the wire' to extend our security bubble and protect against threats to the new ECP along MSR Tampa, which is one of the main thoroughfares in all of Iraq (think I-95 with no traffic laws or speed limits). Our Soldiers have done a tremendous job transitioning to this new mission set, and they are excited to have a chance to perform tasks much more in line with their skill set as an Infantryman while deployed.**

**All of the Soldiers in the Company did a tremendous job getting us ready for the new mission set. Special recognition goes to SGT Williams, our Company Master Driver, and SGT Meads, our Company Communications NCO, both of whom worked tirelessly to ensure the company's vehicles were ready to begin exterior patrolling.**

**The end of February and the beginning of March also saw the completion of the second round of Charlie Guard Fitness Tests. There were several outstanding performances, just as there were last quarter. SGT Reed (2<sup>nd</sup> PLT), SGT Peoples (3<sup>rd</sup> PLT), SGT Donald Williams (3<sup>rd</sup> PLT), and SPC Haught (3<sup>rd</sup> PLT) all maxed 4 out of 5 events on the test and deserve recognition for their outstanding performances. SSG (P) Rhoten, 1<sup>st</sup> PLT Platoon Sergeant, became the second person to max 5 of 5 events on the test. This is a level of fitness that is truly special and takes a tremendous amount of hard work to achieve. 2<sup>nd</sup> PLT performed the best overall with PLT averages of 42 minutes on the 5 mile run, 8 reps of 185 lbs. on the bench press, 13 pull-ups, 58.5 seconds on the 300m shuttle run, and a 5.7 (the max) average on the 40yd dash.**

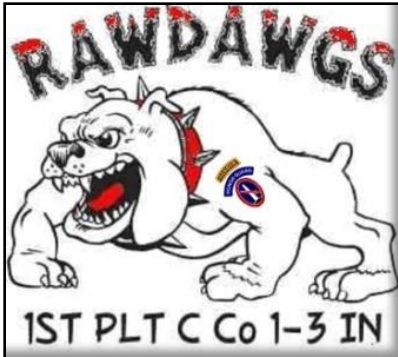
**We have now re-enlisted 25 Soldiers while deployed with several more contracts pending. I want to again recognize the tremendous work that 1SG Montanez and our other senior NCOs have done in ensuring that our Soldiers know and understand all of the options available to them within our Army.**

**Thank you for your continued and unwavering support, it is truly appreciated.**

*-Ed*

# 1PLT Platoon "Rawdawgs"

## 1LT Rob Breitman & SSG(P) John Rhoten



Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy six-month mark from 1PLT!!! We are all excited about hitting the 1/2-way point. We can now see the light at the end of the tunnel and can't wait to get home to see you all. I wish I could say that it has been all rainbows, leprechauns, and green beer here, but alas...not even a pot of gold to be found (although we do have an unlimited supply of Lucky Charms at the chow hall). Spirits are still high, and in large part, we have you all to thank, so thank you.



**Members of 1PLT conducting Combat Ops**



**1LT Breitman re-enlists SPC Dell**

With that said, I can say that the men are extremely enthusiastic about yet another mission set...Combat Operations. That's right! As of 26FEB2010, 1PLT became the first unit from 1<sup>st</sup> BN, 3<sup>rd</sup> IN Regt (TOG) to conduct a combat patrol since the Vietnam War. We are proud to be able to represent the Old Guard and enter the history books. We've been able to take-in the breathtaking landscape of Iraq by car and on foot (mounted and dismounted). Believe it or not, there are wide stretches of beautiful palm groves and apple orchards, and as long as the temperature holds (we hit 99 degrees last week, but it's back down to 75 degrees today), it's not too bad.



**CPT Arntson re-enlists SPC Dillon**

Another moment in history we would like to highlight is the recent transition of the Taji Detention Facility over to the Iraqi Government, which occurred this past week on March 15th (<http://www.centcom.mil/en/news/u.s.-turns-taji-prison-over-to-iraqi-government.html>). This transition represents a huge milestone in the advancement of the Iraqi government and will allow our Soldiers to focus more on their Infantry skills and tactics rather than detainee operations.

The Platoon remains focused on the mission ahead, and as such they have been training diligently. We successfully completed a team live-fire at the Taji Shoothouse this month, and we will be conducting a fire-team competition at the end of the month, which will test each and every Soldier's resolve and stamina. The test will consist of the Charlie Guard Fitness Test followed by the Army's Physical Fitness Test, an 8-mile ruck march, a weapons qualification, and finally a written test, all within an 18-hour period. I know we are all anxious.



**SSG (P) Rhoten promotes SGT Trombley**

As always, we would like to recognize a few of our outstanding Soldiers for their recent accomplishments, including CPL Trombley who was promoted to SGT, SPC Dell and SPC Dillon, who both re-enlisted this month, and PFC Banville who received a coin of excellence for his superb performance from Major General (MG) Quantock. Congratulations to all of you. Once again, we'd like to thank you all! You truly keep us going!!!

# 2nd Platoon “Hellfish”

## 1LT Ryan Bridley & SFC Standly Villiers



Greetings all Hellfish friends and family. Once again we have had another month in which we have demonstrated why we continue to succeed as both individuals and as a platoon.

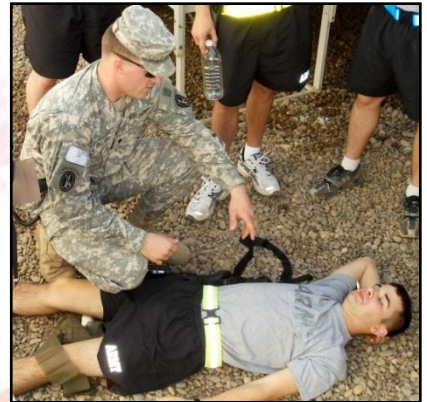
We are excited to recognize the men in the platoon who have just been promoted. Brantley Doster became a Non-Commissioned Officer after being promoted from Specialist to Corporal and Justin Bergstrom was promoted from Corporal to Sergeant. These two Soldiers have done an outstanding job of excelling as Team Leaders and have earned nothing but high marks from their chain-of-command and from the Soldiers they lead.

We have two Hellfish who have just re-enlisted to continue their already successful careers in the Army. SPC Jeremiah Luttrell re-enlisted so he could serve the Army as a Combat Medic, and SPC Kurt Menton re-enlisted so he could serve in Baumholder, Germany as a Mechanized Infantryman. These Soldiers have already done an outstanding job of serving in Iraq, and we know they will greatly benefit their new units after they leave Fort Myer.

This past month we had a Stress Fire Range that was highly successful in pushing our Soldiers physically and mentally in how they conducted themselves in a combat-related scenario. During the Stress Fire we had many Soldiers who rose to overcome the challenges presented to

them and were recognized for their performance. PFC Pavel Romanovich and PFC Gerald Royer were presented Army Achievement Medals (AAMs) for completing the Stress Fire Course the fastest, and PFC Camilo Castrillion and SGT John Abell were presented AAMs for shooting the most accurate of the platoon teams. SPC James Britton was awarded a Certificate of Achievement (COA) for completing the course despite pinching a nerve in his back, and CPL Brantley Doster, SPC Kurt Menton, and PFC John Delacerda earned COAs for performing the best of the machine gun teams.

We are also proud to announce the newest addition to the Hellfish family. While on leave, SPC John Fields got engaged to his fiancé Chrysta. We are happy for John and Chrysta, and we wish them Congratulations and Good Luck with their wedding which will take place next Spring.



SPC Austin Dillard teaches a Platoon Medical Class with the help of PFC Zane Langworthy.



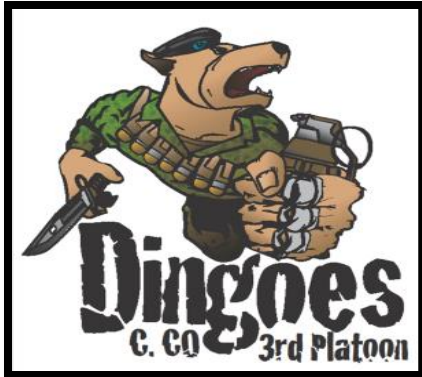
(L to R) PFC David Minor receives advice from SGT Victor Whaley on the Camp Taj Range



(L to R) PFC John Delacerda and CPL Brantley Doster demonstrate their proficiency as a machine gun team for a Night Range.

# 3<sup>RD</sup> Platoon “Dingoes”

## SFC John Diggles & SSG Michael Davis



**We are on the downside of our time. The months keep falling off...at least it seems that way for us over here. The weather has warmed up a bit, and the pool has opened. With any luck we can get there and try to get some sun so we can see where our socks start and legs end. The Company has successfully turned over the operations of the prison to the Government of Iraq. As we stepped away from that mission set, we picked-up what we originally set out to do, and that is Patrols. The men of 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon are very excited about the mission change and are ready to go.**

**During the month of March we continue to conduct tactical training. Our machine gunners were able to test their skills by firing the 240B while mounted on the HMMWV. The rest of the squads went through a transition fire that enables them to shoot from different positions and obstacles. Both of these events were a great test and a confidence builder of their skills. Along with the tactical training we conducted, we also completed medical training that builds confidence in each other's abilities to save one another's life.**

**The CGFT (Charlie Guard Fitness Test) was a great success as many of the Soldiers and leaders of 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon pushed themselves to new limits and achieved scores that they never would have thought possible. SPC Haught, SGT Williams, and SGT Peoples maxed 4 out of 5 events earning a local 3-day pass. In the beginning of April, we will be further challenged with a new Fire Team competition consisting of the Charlie Guard Fitness Test, the Army Physical Fitness Test, an 8 mile foot march, weapons qualification table, and a written exam. This endurance competition will take place over an 18-hour period.**



*Always keep your weapon in a safe direction*

**Congratulations to CPL(P) Dana for maxing the promotion board and PFC Vine for a good showing at his first Soldier of the month board. We missed a very cool event last month...Congratulations to SGT Street and his wife on the birth of their child. As always I want to thank the friends and families of 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon for their support. We would not be able to do our jobs effectively if not for you taking care of business at home.**



*SGT Williams training his Soldiers*

**Dingo 6 and 7 Out.**

# Headquarters Platoon “The Dirty Dozen”

CPT Ryan Hamel & SGT(P) Robert Williams



The HQ boys are shifting their focus to Combat Patrols. Currently, C Company is operating “outside the wire” conducting numerous day and night time missions. The HQ Boys are doing well either managing the units out in sector or serving in the vehicle that the Company Commander and 1SG command during patrols.



SGT Williams (The Sheriff) is currently on leave enjoying the sun in Florida! (Enjoy the sun burn!) Before he left, SGT Williams was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for his hard work ensuring the vehicles in C Company remain operational. He has been busy as the Company Commander's driver during the combat patrols.

-SGT APP (Happy APP)- SGT App is continuing to do a great job training SPC Parker and PFC Ilai in the supply world, which has helped C Co's mission tremendously. SGT App recently flew down to Victory Base Complex to get C Co another Up-armored Humvee and wire mitigation kits for our MRAPs. SGT App has been working hard to keep the Company up and running and maintaining accountability of all equipment as our missions change.

-SGT Meads was also awarded the Army Achievement Medal for his hard work building all the commo platforms for the vehicles to become operationally ready. SGT Meads has proven himself to be a valuable team member, not just for C CO, but for the 211<sup>th</sup> MP BN we operate under, as he has been working to build their vehicles up to the C CO Standard.



-SGT Kasier, had a little too much fun on leave this past month. After taking some extra time at home, he has returned to Camp Taji with a lot of work to do. SGT Kasier has been busier than ever repairing vehicles, which seem to break all too easily. Every day he has been putting in long hours at the motor pool to ensure the operational readiness of C Co. He missed SGT Williams while he was away on leave.

-CPL Cecil continues to take charge of the C co CP at night. CPL Cecil is the senior NCO in charge of the night shift crew that monitors the missions of all Platoons during the lighter operational time frame. He has been managing the missions of 2<sup>nd</sup> PLT while they have been outside the wire during their night patrols.



-SPC Parker (Mr. Extreme)- His award winning Flat Top hair cut has faded out, but we expect to see his next generation hair cut set a new and high standard in C Company in the near future. SPC Parker is currently up at Joint Base Balad attending a school which will help him with his daily operations in the Supply world. He is still extreme in everything he does!

-SPC Wood's motivation has proved to be the heart and soul of the Company. For this he was asked to pick up a position in 2<sup>nd</sup> PLT to help bring the platoons standard of excellence just a little bit higher. He will be missed!

-PFC Ilai, (Little buddy) is still on his way to becoming a U.S citizen, and is awaiting to receive citizenship for his family as well, so he can move them to the States. He re-enlisted this past month in front of an Iraqi Air Force Helicopter. Ilai continues to strive and make great efforts in C CO HQ.

-CPL Vaughn was promoted to CPL this month. He continues to ensure that all the records for our Soldiers and their families are up to date and current. Most recently, while SGT Williams was on leave, CPL Vaughn filled in as the CDR's driver, being the 2<sup>nd</sup> 42A series soldier to go outside the wire. His only comment after his first patrol was that the Humvee seats were not nearly as comfortable as his desk chair.